

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Monday, April 2, 2018/Chaitra 11, 1940 (Saka)*

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**(Ministries : Defence; Drinking Water and Sanitation; Earth Sciences;  
Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and  
Broadcasting; Mines; Panchayati Raj; Road Transport and  
Highways; Rural Development; Science and Technology;  
Shipping; Textiles; Water Resources, River  
Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)**

**Total number of questions — 15**

#### **Shortage of soldiers in armed forces**

\*361. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR  
SABLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a  
shortage of officers and soldiers in the  
armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof, service-  
wise;

(c) whether Government has  
conducted any study on it during the last  
three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof,  
State-wise; and

(e) the details of steps taken by  
Government to tackle the problem of  
shortage of soldiers in armed forces?

#### **Delay in payment of salary to officials of Prasar Bharati**

\*362. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the  
Minister of INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the  
delay by Government, some employees  
of Prasar Bharati did not get their  
salaries for the month of February, 2018  
on time;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that  
due to an internal clash between the  
Ministry and Prasar Bharati the same  
problem had occurred in October, 2017 as  
well; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind such  
repeated delays and action taken by  
Government thereon?

**Contracts for live coverage of events  
by private firms**

\*363. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Mumbai based firm had been awarded contracts for live coverage of opening and closing ceremonies of International Film Festival of India, Goa, 2017 instead of Doordarshan which covers bigger events like Republic Day and International Yoga Day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons and justifications therefor;

(d) whether Government would initiate an inquiry into the award of the contract to private firms instead of Doordarshan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Rehabilitation of trainee officers  
disabled during training**

\*364. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the trainee officers disabled during training at various military academies in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme to absorb such trainee officers including those disabled during training at Indian Air Force Academy, Hyderabad, in suitable alternate employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when

the proposed scheme will be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of other steps taken/being taken by Government to rehabilitate the disabled trainees?

**Additional funds for MGNREGS**

\*365. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 88 per cent of the funds available for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have already been exhausted halfway through the financial year;

(b) whether Government had claimed that this year's MGNREGS budget is the highest ever;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need of an additional amount of ₹ 17,600 crore to meet the requirements under MGNREGS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Implementation of minimum wages  
under MGNREGA**

\*366. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many States, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wages are lower than those fixed for unskilled agricultural labour under the Minimum Wages Act of States, if so, the details of the difference in the amounts, State-wise;

(b) the detailed reasons for not accepting the recommendations of the Mahindra Dev Committee, which suggested a convergence of the wages paid under State Minimum Wages Act for unskilled agricultural labour and the MGNREGA wages; and

(c) the estimated cost if MGNREGA wages are paid at a rate equal to the States Minimum Wages Acts ?

#### **Course for Sanitation Supervisors**

\*367. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to start a course for Sanitation Supervisors in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any fixed timeline to start this course; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of IAY/PMAY**

\*368. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation criteria for Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)/Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY);

(b) whether allocation is based on the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the role of institutions like Housing & Urban Development Corporation

(HUDCO), National Housing Bank and State Housing Boards in IAY;

(e) whether there is any possibility of linking the housing credit with income generated from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA); and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Legislation on cleaning river Ganga**

\*369. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to consult experts to decide who should be held guilty for the pollution in river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government would soon enact the proposed law to clean river Ganga; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Shortage of pilots in armed forces**

†\*370. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of pilots in Navy, Army and Air Force;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet this shortage;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when will this shortage be met?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Declining work completion rate under MGNREGA**

\*371. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of work completion under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is declining drastically;

(b) if so, the details of work completion rate under MGNREGA during the last three years;

(c) the reasons, if any, for failure to complete the work under MGNREGA; and

(d) whether any concrete steps are being taken to address the failure in completion of works under MGNREGA?

**Driving schools for skill development**

\*372. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to start 2000 driving schools, each on two acres of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has invited industry to join hands to impart skill development by way of providing driving skills; and

(d) if so, the response of Government and the details thereof?

**Displacement of people due to establishment of Naval AOB**

\*373. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date of establishment of Navy Alternative Operation Base (AOB) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that four villages have been affected due to the above project;

(c) if so, steps taken by the Ministry as regards displaced persons and the details of assurances given for rehabilitation and resettlement and their implementation;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had assured provision of two jetties, employment to eligible youth, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Health Centres, apart from other things, to the displaced; and

(e) if so, the status of the assurances given to the affected villagers?

**Repair work on Mahatma Gandhi bridge in Patna**

†\*374. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahatma Gandhi bridge over river Ganga in Patna is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the only access to North Bihar and Nepal, passes through the bridge;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the work for its repair and broadening has been awarded to IRCON on the condition of completing it by 2018;

(d) whether the deadline of November, 2018, is unlikely to be met, due to slow pace of work; and

(e) if so, the norms fixed by Government for this company for timely completion of work and the details thereof?

**Forest fires in the country**

\*375. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of

ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding the number of forest fires in the country during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, forest-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that according to a Forest Survey of India report, around 50 per cent of forest areas in the country are vulnerable to fire, if so, the details thereof including the major findings of the report?

NEW DELHI;  
The 27th March, 2018  

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Chaitra 6, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
Secretary-General.

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

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| <b>Defence</b>   | : 361, 364, 370, 373, |
| <b>Drinking Water and Sanitation</b>                             | : 367,                |
| <b>Earth Sciences</b>  | : —                   |
| <b>Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>                    | : 375,                |
| <b>Information and Broadcasting</b>                              | : 362, 363,           |
| <b>Mines</b>   | : —                   |
| <b>Panchayati Raj</b>  | : —                   |
| <b>Road Transport and Highways</b>                               | : 372, 374,           |
| <b>Rural Development</b>   | : 365, 366, 368, 371, |
| <b>Science and Technology</b>                                    | : —                   |
| <b>Shipping</b>  | : —                   |
| <b>Textiles</b>  | : —                   |
| <b>Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation</b> | : 369.                |